IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An assembly defining longitudinal, lateral, and transverse directions substantially orthogonal to one another, the assembly comprising:

a vehicle comprising

at least one wheel supporting at least a portion of the weight of the vehicle on a supporting surface, and

a cargo area having a length in the longitudinal direction, a width in the lateral direction, a first end, and a second end longitudinally opposite thereto; and

a flexible member having a first portion to underlie cargo in the cargo area and a second portion extending therefrom a length sufficient to pass around the second end to a location of capture thereof between the at least one wheel and the supporting surface, the second portion gradually pulling the first portion around the second end during backing of the vehicle.

2. (original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a friction-reducing member positioned at the second end and extending at least the width of the cargo area.

3. (original) The assembly of claim 2, wherein the vehicle is selected from the group consisting of a pickup truck, a flatbed truck, a van, and a trailer.

4. (original) The assembly of claim 3, wherein the vehicle provides an opening proximate the second end to pass cargo for removal.

5. (original) The assembly of claim 4, wherein the friction-reducing member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of woods, metals, polymers, elastomers, and composites.

6. (original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the wherein the friction-reducing member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polyethylenes and fluoropolymers.

7. (original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the friction-reducing member comprises at least one roller extending in the lateral direction.

8. (original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the friction-reducing member comprises multiple, separable sections positioned along the second end of the cargo area in the lateral direction.

9. (original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein the flexible member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of fibers, polymers, elastomers, woven fibers, and composites.

10. (original) The assembly of claim 8, wherein the flexible member is formed of an elastomeric material selected to store energy for increasing a force urging removal of a load from the cargo area.